




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.50 am): Madam Deputy Speaker Pugh, I start by acknowledging your elevation to the important role of temporary Speaker in this parliament and acknowledging the elevation of the member for Mulgrave to the very high office of Speaker of the parliament. The member for Mulgrave and I were elected at the same time, in 2009. I have known him for a very long time. There are very few people who have the integrity and decency of the member for Mulgrave. He is a very suitable appointment to that high office of Speaker.

I take this opportunity to thank the people of the Morayfield state electorate for their support of me at the 2017 election and the previous elections I participated in. I love the Morayfield state electorate and the people who live within it. I grew up in the area. I have lived there my entire life. I am very grateful for the friendship and support that so many people of our community have demonstrated towards me and for the hope and reliance that they communicate with me about the Labor Party's vision and plans for our community. They know that the Labor Party is the only party that is truly committed to fairness and equality for all people but particularly the people of the Morayfield state electorate.

That leads me to take the opportunity to thank the great Australian Labor Party and our movement, not only for their support of me but also for the courage of every single member of that movement, of our party—not only to stand for what is right and fair in our community but also to have really robust conversations around how we can achieve greater fairness, greater equality and greater diversity within our community.

I also take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who participated in my election campaign. The volunteers I had truly reflect the diversity of our community and our party. We had people volunteering on my campaign from different cultural backgrounds and with different family connections, different heritage and different skills, talents and experiences, but they were all united by the same passion: to support the Labor movement and the constant struggle to create a fairer, more decent, more equal society where every citizen has the opportunity to access good quality health and education services, regardless of their postcode or the size of their bank balance. During the campaign the term 'Mark's Morayfield motley mob' gained a bit of currency, because of the diversity of our volunteer base and also the swelling of our ranks throughout the campaign.

I particularly thank all of the volunteers who were involved in my campaign. Although I would love to thank them all personally and individually in this speech today, I must acknowledge the few extraordinary contributions that were made by some of the volunteers on my campaign. I start by acknowledging Yvonne and her truly superhuman contribution. Yvonne did everything on the campaign: she doorknocked, she was the prepoll captain and she was the campaign photographer. She even roped in her sons, David and Sam, to help out as well. Yvonne, thank you for your contribution and for your support of me.

I thank my campaign director and great mate Michael, who was fired up and ready to go from day one. I also thank Michael's wife, Krista, and their son, William. Their support was invaluable. I am very grateful for their support of me. I thank another great mate Drew, who was an absolute workhorse—early starts, late finishes and getting it all done. I thank Drew's mum, Lisa. Thank you not only for putting up with Drew but also for your support.

Michael and Mirian probably win the title of my most passionate supporters, because they actually put my face on the side of their car throughout the campaign. It continues to be there, mind you, just to demonstrate their support of me. I thank them for their tireless efforts and also for the early starts. They were always the first at those early morning street stalls.

Justin, who is probably the biggest Cowboys supporter in Morayfield—

Mr Harper: Good to see!

Mr RYAN: There is nothing wrong with being a Cowboys supporter! I thank Justin for his contribution. Justin battled all odds to participate fully in our campaign, to the extent that while he was in his wheelchair he helped me doorknock through a pretty bumpy area of the electorate. I thank Justin very much for his support.

I thank Michael, Zeph, Marilyn, Eddie, Shayne, Cathie, Glen, Flora, Trevor, Anja, Andrew, Deb, Clem, Harry, Tsian and friends, Saroja, Jaya, Karol—who we also call 'Cinnamon'—Jo, sign site installer extraordinaire Ian, Jane and her army of friends, Corrina and the Pink Belles, Grace and the hundreds of other volunteers. There were literally hundreds of volunteers. I thank them.

I particularly thank some new friends that I have gained through the last few years through my advocacy on a very important issue to them in our community—that is, support for students with disabilities and bus transport. I thank Jane and Rob, who actually came to the rescue with a shuttle bus on election day. One of the election booths that had been used in the electorate for many decades was not available on election day. To ensure that people from that part of the community were able to vote, Jane and Rob came to the rescue with a shuttle bus. They shuttled people from that part of the community to the nearest election booth. I thank Jane and Rob very much.

I thank everyone who supports our mighty movement: the unions, businesses, community groups, battlers, workers and families right across our state and our communities. Thank you very much for being part of our movement and for believing in the Labor Party as the party of chance and opportunity, the party of fairness and equality.

To my electorate office staff and volunteers, who truly are the heroes in my role as a representative of our community: thank you for everything you do for our most amazing community. Thank you for the help and the assistance that you provide to everyone who comes to us seeking advice, seeking comfort, seeking information. What you do is extraordinary, and I am grateful for your contribution.

I also thank my ministerial staff, both past and present. I have always maintained that the true honour is to be preselected as a Labor Party candidate and to participate in an election as a representative of our great movement, but it is indeed an extremely rare honour and an awesome opportunity to become a minister in a Labor government. It is truly extraordinary. To my ministerial team who help in that extraordinary opportunity: I am very proud to work with you and I am very proud of the work you do every day on behalf of our community and our state.

That leads me to thank my family. To my family and extended family but especially my parents, Pete and Robbie, who selflessly give everything when it is campaign time and also outside of campaign time: I truly am very lucky to be blessed with a family who dedicates so much to assisting me in my efforts as a political representative. I am very, very grateful for their contribution.

My wife, Holly, is such an important support to me. She does keep me very grounded. Those people who know Holly know that she is never backward in her contributions about what she thinks. She keeps me grounded but, most importantly, she makes those sacrifices that people who are in political families have to make as a result of the contribution and commitment of a political representative in that family. She does so without complaint and with great support of me. I am so grateful to be on this journey with her. I know that as a result of my role it is very hard for me to dedicate all the time that I would love to dedicate to sharing life with Holly and our son, Danny.

I know that it is always a challenge when you have a young family for the pressures to be managed appropriately, but thanks to Holly and to Danny—Danny particularly, who is a great hit with the voters and who has also learnt already, with no influence on my part, to be vocal when he sees a Tory on TV. I do not know how he did that, but he is very vocal. It is just instinct I think. He is very vocal

when he sees a Tory on TV. He is very wise at his young age. To Danny, thank you for learning quick and thank you for also being a great campaigner and I look forward to spending as much time as I can with you and your mum. Thank you for your love and understanding.

To some of my longest political friends—and they are going to hate me for saying this—to the member for Bancroft, Whitey, thank you very much. He is a neighbouring MP and I always take great guidance and support and encouragement from the member for Bancroft. Thanks also to Kingy, the member for Kurwongbah. We make a formidable team as part of the broader Moreton Bay Labor team and we look forward to knocking off those few non-Labor electorates at the next state election to ensure that the Moreton Bay region is Labor wall to wall.

I want to finish by acknowledging the positive campaign that our party participated in at the last election of delivering for locals, restoring those front-line services which were cut by the former Newman LNP government and creating job opportunities for locals. I was able to participate in the campaign around the state on the 'cuts bus' with ministers like the Minister for State Development, and everywhere we went around the state we continued to hear that consistent feedback—that people remembered what the Newman government did to them and that they were grateful that the Labor government was reversing them.

When you look at a track record of delivering for people the resources, the services and the supports that they need, you do not have to look any further than the record of a Labor government, particularly the Palaszczuk Labor government. Right across the state we heard the consistent message of the restoration of front-line services and the investment in health and education and policing services. Right across the state we saw the investment in new infrastructure and those services that so many Queenslanders rely on. We also heard that message as well—that the people of Queensland did not want the cuts and chaos that those opposite in coalition with other minor parties would deliver for our state. They wanted a stable and good government and they voted accordingly at the 2017 election, and I am very pleased that they did.

Some of the commitments that our government made locally which I am very happy to celebrate include an investment in new policing infrastructure in the Morayfield electorate with a new police station for Caboolture, and that police station is well underway; the upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital, a \$253 million upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital, with parts of it already underway; a new special school for the Caboolture area, with construction due to start next year; and a new upgraded train station for Morayfield, with construction underway as well. We see investment in those services and infrastructure that our community needs and it is an investment that a Labor government is providing.

I want to finish by expressing my great thanks and gratitude to the people of the Morayfield electorate for putting their faith in me to be their representative once again. They know that a Labor government is the only government that will deliver the services and the infrastructure that they need and I am very proud to be delivering it on their behalf in this parliament.